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Newsletter Number 03 21 February 2014



Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 Email – admin@matarau.school.nz

Thanks

- .. to those who returned interview requests this week
- .. to those who shared our Fun-day Monday with us and to Rachael Robertson and team for organisation of this event.
- .. to those parents who attended this week's year 5 and 6 parent camp meeting.

People of the week

- .. Summer Adams who used such great manners when she came to the school office this week .. you impressed a lot of bystanders Summer.
- .. James and Paddy Biss who were hugely helpful to their fun-day Monday team during the team problem solving activities.

Term Events

Please pencil the following dates into your calendar (a few are tentative).
We will advise of further dates as these come to hand.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 24/25 Feb | Parent / teacher conferences (please keep one of these afternoons free) |
| 10 Mar | Zone Swimming Sports at Kokopu School |
| 18-21 Mar | Year 5/6 camp at Russell |
| 20-21 Mar | Junior marine snorkel at Whangarei Harbour Marine Reserve |
| 19 Mar | Year 7/8 Tennis Doubles Tournament |
| 7-9 Apr | Trikids programme |
| 16 Apr | 2014 Youth Summit |
| 17 April | Final day for term 1 |
| 5 May | Commencement of term 2 |

Some reminders from last week

- .. the Middle school keen to receive any clean surplus newspapers (just drop to Mr Schuster, Room 9)
- .. any questions in the run up to the year 5 and 6 camp to Mr Schuster please.
- .. Traffic Safety Plan coming soon to a school near you
- .. parent helpers please ensure you have collected a parent helpers' booklet from your child's teacher or the school office.
- .. please update medical forms and medications (held in our office) where appropriate.
- .. Friday lunch orders must be in no later than Wednesday of the week in question please.

Can you help? .. Thursday 27.2

On Thursday 27 from 2:00 PM we will be emptying the contents of the hall into a shipping container for storage while the hall is being refurbished. As some of the items are quite heavy, we would be very grateful for some assistance. **So ... if you pick your children up at 3:00, are OK for lifting, and can come an hour (or even half an hour) earlier to help Jim (our caretaker) shift items please give Kevin a call on Monday of next week. This won't take long with a few sets of willing hands. THANKS!**

Duathlon

We are holding our Yr 4-8 Duathlon competition next week. This will involve a practice day on Tuesday, where we encourage the children to bring their bikes. We are happy to store bikes on site for Tues, Wed night.

On Wednesday we will be holding the Individual Duathlon and Thursday the Teams Duathlon...all events begin at the start of lunch. We welcome you to watch.

Optional Events

As a school we are committed to providing children with opportunities which allow them to shine in areas of strength or interest. Many such events are quite optional (for example the forthcoming tennis tournament, triathlon, Lit Quizz etc) and so please feel under no pressure ... you will oftentimes have received a consent simply because your child has indicated interest.

After School Maths Labs

... start next Thursday (not Monday because of interviews). If your child was not placed this time around, please note that we will be running labs throughout the year and further opportunities may present down the track. Please impress upon your child that these are a valuable additional opportunity to push their maths boundaries. Science and literacy labs are also planned for later this year. Three quarters of the available places in each lab will be reserved for Matarau students at the subsidised rate.

A little more on the After School Labs

Our intention is to provide additional learning opportunities to our families at a price substantially lower than that available elsewhere (and we mean substantially). In order to do this (and to enable us to purchase additional learning resources for wider use across the school) **we are making a limited number of places available to non-Matarau students at an unsubsidised rate of around \$350 per student** - for a terms instruction (2 lessons a week). This works out at a rate of around \$15 a lesson (compared with a cost sometimes in excess of \$50 for private tuition) and this also includes a Maths Whizz subscription which, alone, would cost parents around \$400 a year. **So .. before we market the programme more widely, we thought we would give our parents the opportunity to share this programme with friends whose children do NOT attend our school and who are seeking affordable tuition (suitable for both consolidation and extension).**

Labs have been moved to 3:40 to 4:40 which is plenty of time to drive children here from Kamo (quicker than a trip to a tutor in central Whangarei). Places will be strictly limited for non-Matarau students to only 10 students per term .. starting in term 2. So .. if you have friends who are interested please ask them to give Kevin a call or request programme brochures for our upcoming maths and science labs. These programmes have very specific learning intentions, assigned homework tasks, close monitoring of progress and printed progress reports. Will need to hear from interested parties within the next couple of weeks.

Special Support Programmes

It is absolutely crucial that children awarded slots in learning support programmes (e.g. after school labs, Mrs Comrie for literacy, Mrs Walker for maths etc.) take full advantage of these opportunities. These programmes are expensive and of limited duration and so we need the quickest shifts in the shortest time. In many cases children are placed not because they are at a critical point in their learning, but because we believe that specific interventions now will accelerate them in their learning with benefits down the track. All of these programmes have quite significant homework loads. So ... if you have not yet done so, please ensure set times and places are allocated for homework and please ensure that all assigned tasks are completed by the next day. Any questions can be directed to the relevant teacher.

School Contributions / Trips and Events Fee / Spelling Books / Maths Whizz Subs

Please forward payment for the above to school at your earliest convenience.

If feeling financially stretched at the moment parents are welcome to contact me to discuss alternative payment arrangements. You will find us accommodating and discreet.

Bike helmets

Please ensure children wear their bike helmets at all times when using their bikes (and ESPECIALLY if cycling to school).

Zone Swimming Sports - Kokopu School - 10 March

Consents for this event (years 4 to 8) were sent home this week. If you did not receive a consent, and you would like your child to participate in this event, please contact Mr Delemare early next week. Parents are asked to ensure that children attending this event (selected from previous performance - and your input) bring their lunches, plenty to drink, sunhats (and sun safe clothing), sunblock, something warm to wear between races, and spending money at your discretion. Please ensure that children who travel by bus also return to school by bus - unless otherwise arranged with the attending teachers. If weather is doubtful on the morning please check our phone bulletin board for updates. (Children who qualify at the zone event will be invited to participate in the Interschool Swimming Championships - more to follow)

Swimming Cups

As we will not be holding a school swimming sports event due to a pending upgrade of the pool compound, recipients of cups this year will be determined by performances at the zone and interschool events. As there is a limit to the number of events a student can enter, parents will be given a special opportunity to confirm these events. So ... you will receive our / your child's recommendations on the consent form sent home this week .. you should feel free to alter this. Year 3 students do not technically qualify for the zone event, but we will consider entering a small number of very strong year 3 swimmers at your request. If you would like to take advantage of this option please contact Mr D early next week. No guarantees.

Disabled Parking Areas

.. please ensure the disabled parking areas are used only for this purpose.

Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews) - 24 and 25 Feb

Interview booking sheets were sent home on Monday and parents should have received confirmation of appointment times. If you did not receive a booking sheet, or if you have not received confirmation of your interview times, please give the office a call on Monday morning. Helen will do her best to give you your preferred times but these will ultimately be allocated on a first in basis. Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit. Conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets. This is a chance for you and your child (attendance optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions on how their year is unfolding.

During Interviews parents can help by ..

- .. noting down any questions beforehand and bringing these with you
- .. arriving on time and departing on the bell (the last thing teachers want is to seem rude but if we don't ALL move on the bell things can get in something of a tangle).
- .. making a follow-up appointment to discuss issues which may take some time to discuss

International Schools English and Maths Competitions

Consent forms for the above competitions will be sent out shortly. Please give careful thought regarding your child's participation this year. The competition is open to all comers but there is little point in participating if children are unlikely to complete a MINIMUM of 5 practice tests in the period building up to the test. Last year a significant number of children did few or no practice tests in spite of being issued with these at school and results reflected this. So .. keen to see as many children as possible on-board for these - but only if there is a commitment to do the practice tests.

Early Buses

Remember that buses will run 30 minutes early on 24 and 25 Feb because of parent interviews. Parents who transport their children by car are asked to pick them up at 2.30 PM please on these days. Bus times may vary on these days due to unpredictable loadings.

Headlice

As advised, last week's inspection indicated low levels of infestation across the school. Those advised of infestation, or suspected infestation, were asked to take prompt action to treat their child. As there will be no further checks this term, parents are asked to check their child(ren's) hair weekly please and to take immediate action in the event of infestation. This way we can stay on top of this programme and keep chemical treatments to a minimum. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Homework

Homework is **encouraged but optional** at Matarau School. For most children this will mean 4 nights homework a week (around 20 minutes each night) with most of this time spent on word learning, maths basic facts and reading, with one activity related to their class programme. Parents should feel free to advise their child's teacher if the load needs to be lightened for any reason or if they wish their child excused from homework altogether. This saves tension and time wasted chasing homework. **If you do NOT want your child to receive homework please advise their teacher NEXT week.** If you are on board please set a regular time and place and advise us if we can help with any "speed wobbles" along the way. Let's start as we mean to continue by getting routines well established.

(Although the research is a little inconclusive we believe that regular homework routines lead to better performance and a better preparation for secondary school for most children).

Our "little things matter" person (people) this week is (are) ...

... Grace Hegh who is quite simply cheerful and positive in everything she does. ... as are many of our senior girls who have taken on board recent suggestions on how to be welcoming and friendly to visitors to our school.

Finally

I would like to acknowledge Mrs Donaldson's work in recent weeks as we prepare to take our after school labs to the next level. Mrs Donaldson has worked tirelessly in this work and we are very grateful for her commitment and expertise. Thank you Mrs Donaldson!

Regards

Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL

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Community Notices

Wanted to Rent - 4brm house in Kamo/Kensington or nearby areas. Phone Lisa 4335092.

Flatmate Wanted - Lovely front room to rent, Hikurangi (opp Waro Rocks) \$80/wk (includes power & garage), no pets and no smoking. Phone Glenis 0220337812.

Personalised Lunchboxes - Labels now reduced to \$10 for February only. See our display in the office foyer, email us on etcsigns@gmail.com or check out our Facebook page Etcetera - Signs by Design.

Hikurangi Rugby Club Rally Day - Saturday 22nd February 2014 from 10am-12. At the Rugby club. Come along and register to play in the upcoming season. Free milo breakfast to all registered players. Subs \$45 please bring along you child's birth certificate. Parents we need your help, if you are interested in being a coach or manager, please contact Kasey on 021542426.

ArtBeat - The BIG Picnic FREE ENTRY Cafler Park, Whangarei, 10am-4pm Saturday February 22nd.

Join us for live music, local performances, interactive art, displays and surprises!

Turbo Touch Afterschool Competition - Kensington Park, Tue 11th Mar - Tue 15th Apr, Yrs 3-8, \$30.00pp or \$210 per team. For further info contact Paul Hope 021951925 or email paul@kidsinaction.co.nz

Rippa Rugby - Hikurangi Rugby Club, Park Street, is hosting a Rippa Rugby Module on Fridays starting Friday 7 February to 14 March 2014. Two grades; 4.00-6.00pm Youth Mixed (5-6 year olds, 7-10 year olds and 11-12 year olds) and 6.00-8.00pm Open Mixed* (13 year olds +). This is a social module encouraging school teams, rugby teams, families, friends and work mates all to join in and be active. This would be great for pre-season rugby training. Rippa Rugby rules apply. Cost is a gold coin donation per game. To register contact Lisa on 4339589 or 0211630237 or dylan.lisajones@hotmail.com before Friday 7 February 2014.

Free Parenting Programme - "Sowing the Seeds" Being the parent you want to be - and loving it! Helping your child regulate their emotions, How to get your child to listen to you, Listening and Encouraging, Problem Solving, Share your experiences and get support from other parents, Thursday mornings: Starting 27th Feb - 3rd April 2014, 9.30am-12.00 noon, Jigsaw North, 25 Otaika Rd, Whangarei. To register contact Jigsaw North 4388852

MATARAU SCHOOL CATERING JOB—WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our school has been offered a lunchtime catering job on Wednesday 12th March 2014 at the Fonterra Farm on Jordan Valley Road.

We need some volunteers to help prepare & serve food on the day or if you are able to help out with providing any of the items below, please tick & return this form to school no later than 3pm on Friday 7th March 2014, so that we can collate & arrange what else is needed. Any queries please contact Sharon Smith on 027 631 9361. Many Thanks for your help in advance.

	I am able to help out on the day—PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!
	Access to get Fresh Bread or Buns (Required by 9am on 12/03/2014)
	Shaved Ham or Chicken (Required by 9am on 12/03/2014)
	1kg Block of Cheese (Required by 11/03/2014)
	Lettuce (Required by 11/03/2014)
	Carrots (Required by 11/03/2014)
	Tomatoes (Required by 11/03/2014)
	Baked Goods: Slices, Cakes etc (Required by 9am on 12/03/2014)
	Fresh Fruit (Required by 9am on 12/03/2014)
	Savouries (Required by 9am on 12/03/2014)
	Quiches (Large or Mini's) (Required by 9am on 12/03/2014)

Name: _____ Contact Ph #: _____

(REMEMBER—MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK)